THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Improving the Thermal Power Plants**

1414. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any studies have been undertaken for getting the most from the old thermal power plants in the country as reported in the Hindu dated 23rd February, 1989; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what corrective steps have been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) When studies were carried out in regard to the performance of the old thermal power stations in the country, it was observed that the average Plant Load Factor (PLF) which was 55.4 per cent during 1976-77 had subsequently deteriorated. The causes for the same were analysed and a Centrally Sponsored Renovation and Modernisation programme for rectification of the defects of old thermal power stations was taken up in 1984. The sanctioned cost of this scheme is Rs. 1083 crores, comprising Rs. 455 crores under Central Loan Assistance and Rs. 628 crores under State Plan/Own Resources.

The Renovation and Modernisation programme generally covers thermal units of a size of 110 MW and below. Some units of 200/210 MW have also been included. A total of 24 power stations—comprising of 161 thermal units and operating to a capacity of 13585 MW—have been included in the programme. It is expected that an additional generation of about 7000 million units per year would accrue after the completion of the programme.

1415. [*Transferred to the 9th May, 1989*]

**Survey on the performance of top engineering units**

1416. SHRI BAIKUNTHA NATH SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made a survey on the performance of 100 top engineering units in the country;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the survey;

(c) what are the names of each engineering company or unit on which the survey was conducted; and

(d) the performance of these engineering units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No Sir, the Government has not made any survey on the performance of 100 top engineering units in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Shifting of registrants for LPG connections registered with M/s. Vishal Gas Service, Delhi**

1417. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PATTNAIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the applicants who got themselves registered for LPG connections with M/s. Vishal Gas Service in the Rohini Township of Delhi have recently been asked to pay their connection charges once again;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the case of those who registered themselves with M/s. Nandi Gas Distributor and M/s. Amar Gas Service in 1984-85 have not been asked to do so;